The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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CHILD LABOR TAX LAW IS NOT UNDERSTOOD

New York, May 31.—The child labor tax law, which was recently declared unconstitutional by Federal Judge Boyd of the western district of North Carolina, is misunderstood by the public, says Owen R. Lovejoy, general secretary of the national child labor committee. This law, which was an amendment to the revenue act, provides for a 10 per cent tax on the profits of establishments employing child labor, regardless of whether these products are placed in interstate commerce or not. The Keating child labor law, which was also declared unconstitutional by Judge Boyd, and which was upheld by the United States supreme court, only applied to products of child labor placed in interstate commerce.

The confusion about the basis of the child labor tax law, according to Secretary Lovejoy, is because the age limit at which children can be employed is the same in both laws, which provide a 14-year age limit for work in factories, mills, canneries and manufacturing establishments; a 16-year age limit for employment in mines and quarries; an eight-hour day and no night work for children between 14 and 16.

Regarding the action that will be taken by the United States supreme court on Judge Boyd's latest decision (invalidating the child labor tax law), Secretary Lovejoy says:

"Unless the supreme court goes squarely back on its previous decisions, it will not affirm Judge Boyd's decision of unconstitutionality. The fact that congress sought to do by indirection what it could not do by direct prohibition has nothing to do with the case. Congress has in the past laid a prohibitive tax calculated to destroy the article taxed—notably in the case of colored oleomargarine, state bank notes and the manufacture of phosphorus matches. Its power to do this has been twice upheld by the court, and I have every confidence that the court will do so for the third time in the child labor case."

ONE FIRM'S MEAT PROFITS.

Chicago, May 31.—Some idea of the tremendous supplies of meat furnished by the packers to the government during the war is given by the Cudahy Packing company, smallest of the "big five" packers, in a memorandum submitted to the war department. The company reports that it made in 1918, after paying interest and taxes, "practically the same rate of net profit as in the pre-war year 1914."

Deliveries of dressed beef for the army and navy from May, 1917, through November, 1918, totalled 29,508,035 pounds, which cost $8,465,-346.18. Of canned meats, 50,620,042 pounds were used, the total cost of which was $14,782,033.54. Bacon cost $12,657,320, and weighed 21,440,600 pounds. During the latter part of the war the company furnished the government over 1,000,000 pounds of bacon per week. The total value and volume of supplies furnished the government amounted to $41,-250,000. The number of pounds of meat sold the government was 102,-208,548. The above figures represent deliveries which never equaled 35 per cent of the company's total production.

By way of comparison of the Cudahy business with that of the other packers, the Cudahy total sales of 1918 were $286,640,971, while sales of Swift & Co. for the fiscal year of 1918 were $1,200,000,-000, and those of Armour, exclusive of business from Argentine plants, $861,000,000.

TO STUDY TUBERCULOSIS.

Washington, May 31.—Plans for an investigation of mortality from tuberculosis in trades where dust is prevalent is announced by the working conditions service of the department of labor. The investigation is to be under the auspices of a committee named by the National Tuberculosis association.

Physical examinations and post mortem examinations as well as the study of death certificates of stonecutters and those employed in other dusty trades will be basic in the inquiry. Prevention problems will be taken up after the new material has been gathered, and the care of incipient cases will be left open for the present.

FINED FOR STRIKING.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, May 31. — Justice Edmunds, in a reserved judgment under the industrial arbitration act, in connection with what he designated as an illegal strike of certain members of the Union of Piano Frame Molders and Stove Makers, imposed a penalty of $20 with costs. The union was ordered to pay $20 fine on each member involved in the strike. The justice said that union officials, when they had failed to prevent an illegal strike, had taken no steps to condemn it.

CLERKS GET AN AGREEMENT.

Richmond, Va., May 31. — Federal Manager George W. Stevens of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad and the adjustment board of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks of the same line have signed an agreement.

The right of the men to join the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the recognition of that organization; seniority rights; the eight-hour day; the 26-day month, with specified holidays; pay for all overtime; an adequate jurisdiction clause, and vacation periods are agreed to.

PAINTERS' WAGES ADVANCED.

Montgomery, Ala., May 31.—Union painters, decorators and paperhangers of Montgomery will receive 62½ cents an hour until May 1, 1920, under a new contract. Eight hours constitutes a day's work, with time and a half for overtime and double pay for Sundays and holidays. A conference board was formed to settle amicably all matters not covered by the agreement.

FIGHT TO THE FINISH

Fort Wayne, Ind., May 31.—The builders' exchange has declared war on the building trades' council, serving notice that hereafter all work in the construction of buildings in this city will be done on the non-union basis. The building trades' council has accepted the challenge.

SUPPORTING LABORERS.

St. Paul, Minn., May 31.—Sixteen unions, composing the building trades council, are on strike supporting the demand of the building laborers for an increase to 50 cents per hour, an advance of 10 cents, with a nine-hour day and union recognition.

Child Labor Still Taxable Rules Revenue Department

Washington, May 31. — The United States revenue department has ruled that the 10 per cent profit tax on establishments employing child labor will be collected, despite Federal Judge Boyd of North Carolina, who recently ruled that this act was unconstitutional.

The department says it has received no official information of the decision and will continue enforcing the law until the United States supreme court rules otherwise.

FOOD NEAR TOP NOTCH.

Washington, May 31.—Retail prices for food in the United States during the month of April were within 2 per cent of the highest point reached, which was in December of last year, according to a statement issued by the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor.

Householders were forced to meet an increase of 7 per cent in the price of butter; 6 per cent in the price of lard; 3 per cent in the price of cheese and 1 per cent in the prices of oleomargarine and crisco. Both fresh and evaporated milk were 2 per cent cheaper in April than in March.

Of the really basic food commodities, flour for the whole United States advanced in price 6 per cent. Pork chops advanced in price 13 per cent during the month; sirloin steak, hens and lamb increased 5 per cent each; rib roast, chuck roast and bacon advanced 4 per cent each; ham and round steak increased 3 per cent each and plate beef 2 per cent.

Other articles which increased during April were: Cabbage, 72 per cent; onions, 15 per cent; potatoes, 7 per cent; prunes, 5 per cent; oranges, 4 per cent; bananas, 3 per cent, and meal, eggs and coffee, 2 per cent each.

In April, 1919, the cost of 22 articles of food was 18 per cent higher than in April, 1918, and 86 per cent higher than in April, 1913.

SEEK SHORTER HOURS.

London, England, May 31.—At the annual delegate meeting of the National Union of Journalists the executive committee was instructed to take a ballot on the question of affiliation with the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation, and to effect an agreement if the ballot should authorize such action. It was pointed out that what benefits they had gained in the past had been on the back of the Typographical society.

On the subject of hours of labor, the following resolution was passed: "That if it be an instruction to the national executive committee immediately to take action for securing shorter hours for journalists on the following basis: A seven-hour day for day workers, a six-hour night for night workers, and a 5½-day week of not more than 38½ hours for day workers and of not more than 33 hours for night workers."

FORM CONTRACTING CO.

Seattle, Wash., May 31.—Members of Carpenters' union No. 1335 have formed a contracting company and hope to be able to avoid strikes and lockouts in the future. The new company starts with a capitalization of $30,000. The shares will be owned by union carpenters. The company aims to build homes and do a general contracting business. Stockholders will be given preference in the matter of employment.

The company will also buy timber and operate sawmills in order to eliminate all profits which now go to the middleman. In other words, the company intends to take the timber in the woods, manufacture it into lumber with which to construct houses and sell them to their fellow laborers or anyone who wishes to buy on easy terms and at prices consistent with good work and the best of material.

BUILDING TRADES WINNING.

Detroit, Mich., May 31.—The Plasterers' association has signed a wage agreement with Plaster Tenders' union No. 190 which gives the workers 75 cents an hour.

The box makers are now receiving an advance which gives the sawyers, rippers and machine nailers 60 and 62 cents an hour.

Over 250 carpenter contractors are paying union wages and others are signing every day.

Nearly 1,000 electrical workers remained idle 20 days to secure a wage advance and reduced hours.

HANDLE FARM PRODUCTS.

Fargo, N. D., May 31.—The state industrial commission has appointed a manager for the North Dakota Mill and Elevator association, which was authorized by the last legislature with almost unlimited powers for handling farm products by state management.

State officials have signed 1,000 $1,000 bonds on the Bank of North Dakota, another state enterprise authorized by the state legislature. These bonds are being offered for sale to the citizens.

REJECT ROYAL DOODADS.

Ottawa, Canada, May 31.—The spirit of Canadian democracy was shown in the house of commons when that body voted to request the king of England to refrain in the future from conferring titular distinctions upon persons living in Canada.

If the king acts favorably on the request, it is stated that the commoners' action means the end of titled aristocracy in the dominion.

WILL "STUDY LABOR."

Atlantic City, N. J., May 31.—The National Electric Light association is the latest organization to realize that there is such a thing as a "labor problem." A committee has been appointed to study the question and submit a report next year. Speakers declared that this question leads all others in importance.

REFUSED AN INCREASE.

Halifax, Canada, May 31. — The building trades presented the contractors a demand for a minimum rate of 75 cents an hour. A refusal followed and all the workers threw down their tools and left the jobs.

STEEL TRUST OWNS TOWN.

Donora, Pa., May 31.—A new ordinance has been adopted by city council prohibiting labor the use of music in the streets or in halls and denying its representatives the right of free assemblage or free speech. One of the largest subsidiary companies of the steel trust is located here.

HIGH PRICES WON'T END.

Washington, May 31.—There is no immediate prospect for lower living costs, according to Julius Rosenwald, head of Sears Roebuck & Co. In a letter to Secretary of Labor Wilson, the Chicago merchant says:

"It is my belief that the range of prices for the necessities of life will average little, if any, lower than at the present time. Of course, there will be some exceptions, but I do not look for a sudden or violent reduction in the near future aside from those which have been artificially stimulated.

"There exists a tremendous demand in our own country for all kinds of commodities. This demand will not diminish materially until war-wrecked Europe re-establishes herself on a peace-time production basis. I fully agree with those who believe that the reconstruction is going to tax our efforts perhaps even harder than did the war, and that there is cause for rejoicing in these conditions, even though accompanied by high prices, for, after all, it is not a question so much of the price one has to pay as to what relation this price bears to one's own income."

On the same subject Otto H. Kahn, New York banker, writes to Secretary of Labor Wilson his belief that prices will not be materially lowered for a number of years, if at all, and that for all practical purposes at least the war has brought a new level of prices, the existence of which must be recognized.

The New York banker quotes Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale university:

"Business men should face the facts. To talk reverently of 1913-1914 prices is to speak a dead language today."

BRONZE SYMBOLIZES LABOR.

Washington, May 31.—"Triumph of Labor" is the title of an interesting bronze that has been on exhibition in a public art gallery in this city.

Two years ago it was presented to the American Federation of Labor by the British Trades Union Congress, but owing to the war it was never sent to this country. On his recent return from Europe President Gompers brought the gift with him.

The bronze is the work of a British artist and has been awarded a medal by the royal academy of art of Great Britain. The central figure of the bronze is symbolic of labor's triumph. The victory is represented by a male figure, standing on a dying octopus. In the rear of the figure an endless procession passes, and on either side are symbols of the various trades. The bronze is mounted on oak taken from the ship Victory, commanded by Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The bronze will be removed to Atlantic City, where it will be viewed by delegates to the A. F. of L. convention, and then placed in the A. F. of L. building in this city.

CO-OP. STORE SUCCESSFUL.

Sydney Mines, N. S. Canada, May 31.—The last quarterly report of the British Canadian Co-operative society (Ltd.), contains a table showing the progress of the society from the first to the twelfth year of its existence. The sales of the society rose from $16,913.12 during the first year to $875,204.94 in the twelfth year. The membership increased from 55 to 1,550, and share and loan capital from $1,710.11 to $88,692.42, while the amount paid in purchase dividends was $636.39 in the first year and $72,029.81 in the twelfth year. The aggregate trade amounted to $2,561,628.40. The total interest paid on capital amounted to $19,306.28, the sum of $262,026.39 has been returned to the consumers as purchase dividends, and the sum of $12,000 has been transferred to the reserve fund out of the surplus revenue.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY PAYS.

Victoria, British Columbia, May 31.—Production costs are less under the eight-hour day than when 10 hours was the rule, declared Paul B. Thompson, of the Foundation Ship Building company, testifying before the Royal industrial commission. The witness suggested that there should be compensation for a man forced into idleness because of weather conditions.

The commission was appointed by the Dominion government. It consists of seven members and includes Tom Moore, president of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, and J. W. Bruce, general organizer of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters.

HELLO GIRLS FORM UNION.

Galesburg, Ill., May 31.—A telephone operators' union has been formed here with a large percentage of the girls signing the application for a charter issued to them by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Atlanta, Ga., May 31.—A union of 400 telephone operators has been organized in this city and active work is being done to secure the membership of the other 300 not yet on the roll of the new union.

WILL REMAIN HIGH.

Washington, May 31.—That business men throughout the country generally acknowledge the advent of a permanently higher level of prices and wages is shown by the answers to a questionnaire on this subject sent out to industrial leaders by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

The consensus of opinion from those who have written Secretary Wilson is that labor has achieved a permanently higher scale of wages.

REFUSE U. S. AWARD.

Elizabeth, N. J., May 31.—The department of labor has assigned a conciliator in the dispute between iron molders and Moore brothers. The firm has refused to accept an eight-hour award by the national war labor board.

STRIKE AT CHARLESTON.

Charleston, S. C., May 31.—Building craftsmen in this city are on strike because contractors have declared for the non-union shop. Construction is at a standstill.

WAGE INCREASE COMING.

Duluth, Minn., May 31.—The plumbers and steam fitters will receive an advance of 50 cents a day after July 1, their wages being increased from $6.50 to $7 a day.

CLOSE ON SATURDAYS.

Washington, May 31.—Department and other large stores in the nation's capital have agreed to close all day Saturday during the months of July and August.

AUTO PLANT TIED UP WANTS LONGER WEEK

Toledo, Ohio, May 31.—The Overland automobile plant failed to break a lockout of its employes by attempting to operate its plant. It discovered its mistake when the engineers and firemen suspended work.

For three years this plant has been operating on a 45-hour a week basis and a month ago the company gave notice that 48 hours would hereafter prevail, and locked out those who refused to accept it. About 13,000 workers in this and allied plants declined to lengthen their work day and they are now idle.

The company refused to accept this offer as a basis for a settlement:

"All former employes to be reinstated to former positions, the hours to remain as prior to May 1, and after the resumption of operations the company to meet with duly elected committees, in an effort to adjust the wage scale and other shop rules."

Business interests are lined up against the workers and every attempt has been made to becloud the issue, which the strikers show is as follows:

The eight-hour day with Saturday afternoon off because it has been in effect for the last three years.

A minimum rate established to old employes against being displaced by cheaper labor.

Shop committees selected by employes on their own time to be recognized in the adjustment of grievances.

In answer to the company's claim that the wage demands would total $2,000,000, the strikers quote the company's figures to show that the company would still have $1,320,000 over and above what it has declared is a fair return to investors.

STREET CARMEN RAISED.

Steubenville, Ohio, May 31. — The board of arbitration acting on the demand of the Steubenville division of the street carmen, which had been rejected by the Steubenville, East Liverpool and Beaver Valley Traction company, awarded an advance of five cents an hour to all employes, effective as of May 1.

Dubuque, Iowa, May 31.—The demand of the Amalgamated Street Railway Employes' union made on the Dubuque Electric company was adjusted by an arbitration board. About 75 per cent of the men secure 8 cents an hour raise, while the remainder of the older employes will receive an hourly increase of from 11 to 14 cents.

Muskogee, Okla., May 31.—A union of the street carmen has been organized, nearly all the company employes signing the charter application. The wages of the street carmen in Muskogee are said to be the lowest in the United State.

PROBE NIGHT BAKING.

London, England, May 31.—The minister of labor has appointed a committee "to inquire into the practice of night baking in the bread baking and flour confectionery trade and to report whether it is desirable in the interests of those engaged in the trade and of the community that the practice should be abolished or modified." At the request of the organized bakery workers the hearings will be public.

This action is in the line with the governments of Spain and France, which have prohibited night baking.

Chicago, May 31.—Organized bakers throughout the country are meeting with considerable success in abolishing night work in this calling. In many instances strikes are being waged.

WOOLWORTH STORE STRIKE.

South Chicago, Ill., May 31.—The girls employed in the Woolworth store were recently organized and made a demand for increased wages and shorter hours. When it was rejected the girls walked out of the store. Wages paid was from $4.50 to $7.50 per week. It is understood that that is the rate paid in nearly all the stores of this company in the various cities. It will be recalled that the head of this company, F. W. Woolworth, died recently and left a fortune of $60,000,000. Its accumulation was due largely to the extremely low wages paid employes and the slavish condition exacted.

LESS MINE FATALITIES.

Washington, May 31.—The United States bureau of mines reports that there was a decrease of 15 fatalities in and around mines during February, 1919, as compared with the same month in 1918. Kentucky and Kansas are not included. The figures are: 158 in February, 1919; 214 in February, 1918.

During the first two months of this year 324 were killed by coal mine accidents in the United States. During the corresponding months of last year there were 421 fatalities. This is a total decrease of 97 fatalities during the two months.

ADVANCES CONCEDED.

Troy, N. Y., May 31. — Electrical workers forced an advance to 75 cents an hour, 10 cents less than demanded. Schenectady settled with contractors at 80 cents an hour. Albany is also demanding an advance to 87½ cents an hour. Yonkers, N. Y., has reached an agreement with contractors which advances wages from $6 a day to $7.

PAINTERS WIN INCREASE.

Toronto, Canada, May 31.—The strike of the painters, decorators and paper hangers terminated successfully and a rate of 65 cents an hour is established, all contracting painters falling in line.

TO DESTROY UNIONS

Havana, Ill., May 31.—The Crescent Forge and Shovel company and the Havana Metal Wheel Company have closed down because the employes organized.

ENGINEERS RAISE WAGES.

Rochester, N. Y., May 31.—A large number of employers have accepted the new $6-a-day rate of Steam Engineers' union No. 71.

GET 80 CENTS AN HOUR.

Beaver, Pa., May 31.—Carpenter contractors and carpenters' unions have agreed to a new wage rate of 80 cents an hour.

UNIONS WITH "TEETH" DEPEND ON WORKERS

New York, May 31.—The American Teacher, official magazine of the American Federation of Teachers, is not fooled by the flattery bestowed on newly-formed unions of teachers, and makes this comment, which can apply to other newly-formed unions:

"It has been the fortune of some locals of the American Federation of Teachers to begin their careers under the blue skies of general public approval. Members of the board of education, the superintendent of schools, and the important newspapers have given their blessings to the infant local.

"Young things are always objects of approval, until they begin to grow teeth.

"Other locals seem to start under a spell of indifference, as if their genesis were attended by some form of unhallowed parentage. No one acknowledges them, except the warm heart of labor. Alone and unapproved by the formalist representatives of public education, and assaulted by the public press, their youth is characterized by a precocious shrewdness and a spirit of independence which sometimes make them seem unlovely young things.

"But the entrenched friends of today may not be the willing friends of tomorrow. The young unions grow and they become powerful. They no longer depend on their patrons, and the patrons begin to see that their power over the young things has weakened. Quite unrealized until too late, the entrenched friends comprehend the fact that the growing power of the young local is a menace to the continuance of the control which was as natural as it was agreeable.

"Then, without warning, the patronizing friends arise in their wrath, throw down their masks of hypocrisy, put on their iron-barbed gloves and smite the youthful and menacing power full in the face.

"The friends of today are no longer friends, but the young power finds in the outcast a brother. And both are the children of labor."

INFLATED CURRENCY.

Chicago, May 31.—The world is glutted with government securities which include both bonds and the medium of circulation known as currency and the sooner we begin the process of reducing both the sooner can we figure on lower living cost, says a local banker, writing in the American Contractor.

The banker calls attention to the difference between borrowing for destructive purposes, as has been done the past several years, and borrowing for the purpose of creating new assets or wealth.

"If a customer," he says, "borrows $100,000 from his bank and the amount is immediately placed to his credit, both the loans and the deposits of the institution have been increased an equal amount, but such a transaction does not represent added strength to the institution and if carried to the extreme may even prove disastrous. This is merely an illustration of what has taken place through the world in government financing.

"The note of the borrower represents an obligation to make repayment at some future date against which he has been given a credit balance upon which to draw for present use."

BUTCHERS WIN 48 HOURS.

New York, May 31.—The Brooklyn Packers' association and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' and Butcher Workmen's unions, Nos. 174 and 211, have signed an agreement whereby 1,500 employes of sausage making and packing plants get the 48-hour week and a $4 a week increase for the skilled men and $3 a week for the laborers. One of the clauses in the contract reads that no laborer shall get less than $25 a week.

The agreement calls for time and a half for overtime, five holidays and a board of arbitration. Another clause says: "We grant the 8-hour basis day, also the 48-hour guarantee, except in weeks where holidays occur the guaranteed time shall be 33⅓ hours."

REPORTERS ORGANIZE UNION.

Montreal, Canada, May 31.—Reporters on the French and English newspapers have organized a union with a charter from the International Typographical union. It is claimed that this is the first newspaper writers' union formed in Canada. The purposes are: "To promote the professional and general interests of the members by encouraging a higher professional standard, by raising the rate of remuneration, by regulating the hours of work, and by providing adequate compensation for overtime and special work."

FAVOR SIX-HOUR DAY.

Louisville, Ky., May 31.—Delegates to the annual meeting of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers have voted unanimously in favor of a resolution to reduce the working hours from eight hours a day to six hours a day with a view to providing sufficient work to take care of the men in the army and navy service who are being returned to civilian life.

SUFFRAGE WINS EASILY.

Washington, May 31.—The federal amendment for woman suffrage was passed by the house of representatives by a vote of 304 to 89, or 42 votes over the necessary two-thirds. January 10, 1918, the house accepted the amendment by a vote of 274 to 136, which was just the required number. The amendment is now before the senate.

WANT AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Toronto, Canada, May 31. — The Street Railway Employes' union has notified the Toronto Railway company that after June 16 it will insist on putting in force the straight eight-hour day, a 55-cent and hour scale and time and a half for overtime.

ACTION RECONSIDERED.

Quebec, Canada, May 31.—The Brotherhood of Bookbinders' union made a request for a wage increase and was turned down by their employers. A strike resulted. Now the increase is put in their envelopes each week.

GIVEN $3 ADVANCE.

San Diego, Cal., May 31.—Brewery Workers' union No. 7 was given an advance, dating from May 5, of 50 cents per day, making the scale $5 for an eight-hour day.

URGE RETIREMENT BILL.

Washington, May 31.—A civil service retirement bill was indorsed at a conference of trade unionists, held in the A. F. of L. building. The bill will be sponsored by Congressman Lehlbach of New Jersey, chairman of the house committee on reform in the civil service, and includes several new features as compared with the McKellar-Keating bill, which was reported to both houses in the last congress, but failed of passage.

Under the new bill the optional age for retirement for the large mass of employes is fixed at 65 years; for mechanics, city and rural letter carriers and post office clerks at 62 years and railway postal clerks at 60 years. During the first 10 years of the act's operation employes may be continued in the service for two-year periods indefinitely, but after 10 years they may be continued in the service only four years beyond the retirement age, thus making retirement compulsory at 69 years, 66 years and 64 years in the respective classes.

No annuity shall exceed $720 a year or less than $180 a year. The 2 1-2 per cent deduction from the basic salary of employes is similar to last year's bill.

A new feature provides for retirement of those who become physically or mentally incapacitated for efficient service before reaching the retirement age. This section has been carefully drawn and is intended to protect both the employe and the government.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Indianapolis, May 31.—General Secretary Frank Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners reports the following recent wage gains by affiliated locals:

Marion, Ind., from 50c to 65c per hour; Shelbyville, Ind., 40c to 55c; Windsor, Canada, 72½c per hour; Allentown, Pa., mill men, 45c to 51c; Jamestown, N. Y., and Sandusky, O., 60c to 70c; Hastings, Neb., 60c to 75c; Bridgeburg, Canada, 55c to 70c; Indianapolis, floor layers, 75c, Oct. 16, 1919, 80c, May 1, 1920; Galesburg, Ill., and Bay City, Mich., 65c to 75c; Amherst, Mass.; Moncton, New Brunswick, and Ottawa, Ontario, 50c to 60c; Detroit, Mich., dock and pier workers, 75c, box makers, 60c to 62c; Dillon, Mont., $7 a day; Louisville, Ky., mill men, 35c to 40c; Ridgefield, Conn., 55c to 65c; Great Neck, N. Y., 62½c; Madison, N. J., 62½c to 70c; Washington, D. C., 87½c; Cleveland, O., 85c to Oct., 1919, 90c to May 1, 1920; Dupage county, Ill., 65c to 80c; Youngstown, O., 75c to 85c.

The strike of Rockford, Ill., furniture workers, which involved several thousand employes and a score of factories, has been settled.

IMPROVED COMPENSATION.

Trenton, N. J., May 31.—The amended compensation laws of the state greatly improves the benefits that will accrue to injured workers of the state. Beginning July 4, the basis of compensation will be increased from 50 per cent to 66 2-3 per cent. The maximum of compensation has been increased from $10 to $12 weekly, and the minimum from $5 to $6 weekly.

From two weeks, the waiting period before compensation is effective has been reduced to 10 days. Medical treatment is now offered for four weeks instead of two, and may be still further extended by the industrial board.

The industrial board has power also to attach a penalty of 5 per cent upon corporations who withhold payments. Some changes, in addition, have been made to the provisions for determining dependency and average wage.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE.

San Francisco, May 31.—The state industrial welfare commission has established a new minimum wage of 25 cents an hour for piece work in fruit and vegetable canneries. This will affect more than 20,000 women. The order provides that no woman or female minor may be employed in preparation of fruits or vegetables in the canning industry at a rate of wages less than $12.50 a week or 28 cents an hour.

Previous to this order the average rate paid by canneries for time work was 22½ cents an hour. The first canning order of the commission in 1916 raised the minimum to 16 cents for experienced workers and in 1918 this was increased to 20 cents.

PAPER MILLS RESUME.

Glens Falls, N. Y., May 31. — The strike which followed the refusal of the International Paper company to pay a wage advance has been temporarily suspended, the men returning to work when the company agreed to meet officials of the Brotherhood of Paper Makers and the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers in conference to negotiate a settlement. All of the mills of the International Paper company were closed from the time the strike was declared until the company's officials consented to the conference demanded.

BOYS BEING RELEASED.

Tamaqua, Pa., May 31.—Hundreds of boys who were employed in and around the mines and manufacturing plants in this section are being released from their jobs. This action is the result of a warning sent out by the government officials that the child labor law would be rigidly enforced despite the fact that Judge Boyd, of North Carolina, declared it unconstitutional.

$7-DAY AND 44-HOUR WEEK.

New Orleans, La., May 31.—The 44-hour per week and 87½ cents an hour are included in the new agreement secured from employers by Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers' Union No. 58, which makes the daily wage $7. The minimum wage for apprentices is 50 cents an hour.

DIFFERENCES ADJUSTED.

Peoria, Ill., May 31.—The plumbers and steam fitters have compromised differences with their employers, accepted a wage advance to $7 a day for journeymen and $4 for helpers. The agreement eliminates helpers in the future.

BUILDING TRADESMEN WIN.

Paterson, N. J., May 31.—Building craftsmen have won a three weeks' strike and secured wage increases for the various trades.

GAIN 44-HOUR WEEK.

Montreal, Canada, May 31.—The Pattern Makers' union has established the 44-hour week.

BRITISH CO-OP. MOVEMENT EXTENDS PRODUCTION FIELD

Washington, May 31.—Since the armistice was signed a new interest has been developed in the British co-operative movement, reports United States Trade Commissioner H. G. Brock, stationed at London.

The department of commerce has made public this report, which states that there are some 2,500 of these societies in operation with a total membership of over 3,800,000 persons, and a total share, loan and reserve capital of over $375,000,000.

"On the whole," says the commissioner, "the war has had a favorable effect on the progress of co-operation in Great Britain. Controlled prices have helped rather than hindered the movement, since in the case of the controlled commodities, for which everybody must pay a certain retail price, members of the co-operative society have an advantage over non-members in that they receive a dividend on all purchases. Co-operative stores are the only stores paying such a dividend, and in many cases this has been an excellent argument to prove the soundness of the co-operative system.

"The number of members of individual co-operative societies has shown a fair increase, and this increase would undoubtedly have been much greater had the societies been able to obtain sufficient supplies.

"The British Co-operative Wholesale society (ltd.), with headquarters at Manchester, England, and the Scottish Co-operative society (ltd.), with head offices at Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland, are the most important single units in this co-operative movement in Great Britain. The British society commenced business on May 14, 1864, and the Scottish society on September 4, 1868. The membership of both societies is made up entirely of individual co-operative retail societies.

"Up until the past two or three years the contract between the co-operative societies and the trade unions has not been at all close. Recently, however, there has been a definite attempt to persuade trade unions to do their banking business with the banking department of the co-operative wholesale society, and an important scheme of agricultural and industrial development, which will shortly be announced by the society, will tend, it is believed, toward establishing a closer working arrangement between the co-operative societies and the trade unions.

"Among the projects contemplated under a development-bond scheme is the acquisition and operation by the society of flour mills, tanneries, jam factories, boot and shoe factories, corn mills, dairy farms and similar enterprises. Not long ago the co-operative wholesale society began the manufacture of textiles.

"Another big development foreshadowed is the acquisition of large coal fields in Yorkshire. Already the society owns a coal mine near Newcastle. During the war the society has spent large sums for the purchase of farm lands and factories."

"Development bonds, ranging in amounts from $100 to $5,000, and totaling $12,500,000, are now being issued to carry on these proposals. These bonds will bear 5½ per cent interest and may be redeemed at the end of 10 years."

INCREASE FOR PRINTERS.

Washington, May 31.—Officers of Typographical union No. 101 have secured a wage advance of $6 a week over the present agreement for newspaper employes. The new rates, which date back to March 17, are $39 a week for day workers and $42 a week for night workers. The seven-hour day continues. This is the second increase during the year.

Waco, Texas, May 31.—Typographical union has negotiated a new scale which went into effect in the newspaper offices May 1 and job offices May 8. It reads: Job offices from $27.50 to $34 per week; and newspapers from 60 cents per hour to 77 1-2 and 82 1-2 cents. The old scale called for 60 cents per hour.

Omaha, Neb., May 31.—The newspaper printers are eagerly awaiting the receipt of the anticipated $150 back pay awarded by the arbitrator. In addition to that they were given an advance to $33 for day work and $36 for night work. The award makes the pay of the newspaper and job printer equal, the first time in the history of the union. This is an increase for the job printer of $15 in five years.

SAYS NEW LAW LEADS.

St. Louis, Mo., May 31.—In an address to the central trades and labor union President Wood, of the Missouri state federation of labor, declared that the compensation law passed by the last legislature is the third best compensation law in this country.

The unionist explained that where an employer is forced to go to court delayed payment draws 6 per cent interest. This, it is believed, will make court procedure unattractive to employers. The waiting period for injured employes is one week, and he secures this one week's pay if he is kept from his employment for six weeks.

The fight for this legislation has been a long one and its successful ending has finally placed Missouri in the front rank of compensation law states.

WANTS NATIONAL 8 HOURS.

Washington, May 31.—A national eight-hour day beginning January 1, 1921, is proposed in a bill introduced in the United States senate by Mr. Moses, of New Hampshire. To meet constitutional objections the bill applies to any mine, quarry, mill, cannery, workshop, factory or manufacturing establishment engaged in production entering interstate commerce. The author of the bill explains that it would be similar to that of the Adamson law of the railroads.

This legislation was passed by congress in 1916, just prior to the date set by the four railroad brotherhoods for a nation-wide strike to enforce an eight-hour day.

MAKE NEW AGREEMENT.

Chicago, May 31.—The new agreement made between organized brickmakers and the brick manufacturers covers some 25 yards, producers of common brick. Last year brick makers secured an advance of 22 per cent and the new contract calls for 12 per cent additional, with only 30 per cent of the yards working. It also permits the union to designate the yards to be operated, thereby dividing the work equitably. The agreement provides for the check-off system in the collection of dues, fines, assessments and initiation fees.

GIVEN WAGE INCREASE.

Portland, Oreg., May 31.—Following the decision of the public service commission, granting an increased rate to the telephone companies, the employes are granted an increase. From a wage of $4.75 for all, the linemen are advanced to $5.25, trouble men $5.35 and switchboard men, $5.50. The operators were not included in the increase.

GET $2-DAY INCREASE.

Knoxville, Tenn., May 31. — Sheet metal contractors have signed an agreement with the union that increases wages $2 per day. Rates were advanced from 45 to 65 cents an hour and hours reduced from nine per day to 44 per week.

INCREASE FOR BARBERS.

Rochester, N. Y., May 31. — Organized barbers and their employers announce a new wage adjustment that raises wages to $20 a week and one-half of receipts over $33 a week.

MORE PAY AND EIGHT HOURS.

Minneapolis, Minn., May 31.—Molders are on strike to enforce an eight-hour day and an advance in wages from 65 and 67 cents an hour to 85 cents. The helpers employed by the Foundry Employers' union are also supporting the molders.

TRUST HEAD IS FUNNY.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 31.—Judge Gary, head of the United States steel corporation, has developed into a humorist. He says his company does not fight labor unions.

Answering a request by President Tighe of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, that the corporation meet with its employes, the trust magnate refused.

"As you know," he said, "we do not combat, negotiate with or combat labor unions as such."

President Tighe wrote the letter under instructions by the steel workers' convention. The unionist said that many members of the steel workers' union were employed by the steel trust, and that "these members are asking that they be given consideration by the corporation you are the honorable chairman of in their respective crafts and workings, and also as law-abiding citizens who desire the privilege of having their representatives meet with the chosen representatives to jointly confer on questions that mutually concern both."

NATURAL SEQUENCE.

Bloomington, Ill., May 31.—Last year there were 21 strikes in Bloomington in a period of 10 months—more than two a month. Six of these strikes were among unorganized employes, forced by the exorbitant cost of living. Fifteen were regularly called strikes of union organizations, but every one of them occurred in shops which were not working under union shop agreements. There was not a strike in Bloomington all last year in an establishment which had a union shop agreement with its employes, yet these employes gained increased wages without striking. Thirty labor organizations in Bloomington last year secured better wages and working conditions for their members—one-half by striking, the other half in a peaceable, orderly, amicable manner, without a day's interruption of employment.

PERU HONORS GOMPERS.

Washington, May 31.—Organized workers of Peru have forwarded to President Gompers, through the Peruvian embassy in this city, a testimonial bearing their signatures as an expression of their admiration for the efforts of the A. F. of L. executive in the cause of labor.

In a letter to President Gompers, Justo A. Casaretto, president of the Artisans' Federation of Lima, Peru, says:

"I respectfully salute you and at the same time wish to inform you that in sending you this pamphlet through our ambassador I am prompted to do so because I am convinced of the sincere affection you feel for Peru."

BIG CO-OP. BUSINESS.

Prince Albert, Canada, May 31.—In the fiscal year ended August 1918, the United Grain Growers and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company did a gross business of $102,000,000. The major part of this business was the handling of 29,379,022 bushels of grain from the time it left the spout of the thresher to the time it got to the mill or on board ship for export. The company also handles livestock, sells farm supplies and operates a real estate agency. It leases a terminal elevator of 2,500,000 bushels capacity at Fort William and has 343 elevators in three provinces.

GET $1 AN HOUR.

East Liverpool, Ohio, May 31.—Bricklayers who have been idle for two weeks because of a disagreement with their employers over a new wage scale, signed up for $1.00 an hour or $8 a day, which is the full scale they demanded.

The carpenters and plumbers who are asking for a wage of $7.20 and $8 per day, respectively, have not reached an agreement.

FURNITURE WORKERS WIN.

Rockford, Ill., May 31.—The furniture workers who have been on strike since April 1 voted to return to work, having secured improved conditions which give them a 50-hour week with 55 hours' pay. Their original demands were for eight hours and increased wages. Their struggle has resulted in reducing the hours 5 per week—a decided advantage.

ENTIRE FORCE UNIONIZED.

San Francisco, May 31.—The entire force of the employes at Angle Island Immigrant Station, numbering [illegible] men and women, signed application for admission to Federal Employes' union.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Fort Worth, Texas, May 31.—The Texas Power and Light company's refusal to arbitrate differences with its organized electrical workers resulted in total darkness for several nights in their city.